

**CLAIMS**

I claim:

- 1      1. A ramp assembly for a pontoon boat having a deck supported by at least two pontoons,  
2                the ramp assembly comprising:  
3                        a pair of ramp support members attached beneath the deck, each ramp support  
4                           member having a substantially vertically-oriented surface;  
5                        at least two rollers attached to the vertically-oriented surface;  
6                        a ramp having a pair of side rails, one side rail being positioned on each side of a  
7                           walkway, the side rails each having an upper rail member and a lower rail  
8                           member joined by a web; and  
9                        wherein the ramp is rollingly received between the ramp support members such  
10                          that the rollers are positioned between the upper rail member and the lower  
11                          rail member.
- 1      2. A ramp assembly according to claim 1 further comprising a plurality of lateral  
2                        stabilization members connected to the pair of ramp support members.
- 1      3. A ramp assembly according to claim 1, wherein the ramp support members are z-shaped  
2                        extrusions.

1       4. A ramp assembly according to claim 1, wherein:  
2                          the side rails of the ramp have an I-shaped cross section, thereby forming an  
3                          inboard pocket and an outboard pocket on either side of the web; and  
4                          the rollers are received by the outboard pockets of the side rails.

1       5. A ramp assembly according to claim 1, wherein:  
2                          the side rails of the ramp have an I-shaped cross-section, thereby forming an  
3                          inboard pocket and an outboard pocket on either side of the web;  
4                          the rollers are received by the outboard pockets of the side rails; and  
5                          the inboard pockets of the side rails receive a plurality of modular walkway  
6                          members.

1       6. A ramp assembly according to claim 5, wherein the walkway members are extruded  
2                  rectangular tubing.

1       7. A ramp assembly according to claim 1 further comprising:  
2                  an endcap leg disposed at an inboard end of the ramp; and  
3                  a lower ramp hanger connected to the ramp support members, the lower ramp  
4                  hanger having a hanger slot for receiving the endcap leg of the ramp when  
5                  the ramp is in an extended position.

1       8. A ramp assembly according to claim 1 further comprising:  
2              an endcap leg disposed at an inboard end of the ramp;  
3              an upper ramp hanger connected to the deck, the upper ramp hanger having a  
4                  hanger slot for receiving the endcap leg of the ramp when the ramp is in an  
5                  extended position; and  
6              wherein a walkway surface of the ramp is substantially flush with an upper surface  
7                  of the deck when the endcap leg engages the hanger slot.

1       9. A ramp assembly according to claim 1 further comprising  
2              a handle disposed at an outboard end of the ramp; and  
3              a plank shoe pivotally connected to the handle, the plank shoe having an inclined  
4                  surface for providing a smooth transition between a walkway surface of  
5                  the ramp and an anchor surface on which the outboard end of the ramp  
6                  rests when the ramp is in an extended position.

- 1        10. A ramp assembly according to claim 1 further comprising:
  - 2                  at least one hand railing;
  - 3                  a plurality of support legs pivotally connected to the hand railing;
  - 4                  a plurality of railing holes disposed in the ramp;
  - 5                  wherein in an assembled position, a portion of the support legs are received by the
  - 6                  railing holes and the hand railing is substantially parallel to the walkway
  - 7                  surface of the ramp; and
  - 8                  wherein in a collapsed position, the support legs are pivoted such to place the
  - 9                  support legs adjacent to the hand railing for storage.

- 1        11. A ramp assembly for a pontoon boat having a deck supported by at least two pontoons,
- 2              the ramp assembly comprising:
  - 3                  a pair of ramp support members attached beneath the deck, each ramp support
  - 4                      member having a substantially vertically-oriented surface;
  - 5                  at least two rollers attached to the vertically-oriented surface;
  - 6                  a removable ramp having a pair of side rails, one side rail being positioned on
  - 7                      either side of a walkway, the side rails each having an upper rail member
  - 8                      and a lower rail member joined by a web;
  - 9                  a first deck hanger positioned at the bow of the pontoon boat;
  - 10                 a second deck hanger positioned at one of the port side and starboard side of the
  - 11                 pontoon boat;
  - 12                 wherein the ramp is rollingly received between the ramp support members in a
  - 13                      stowed position such that the rollers are positioned between the upper rail
  - 14                      member and the lower rail member; and
  - 15                 wherein the ramp is adapted to be received by one of the first and second ramp
  - 16                 hanger in an extended position, thereby providing the walkway for one of
  - 17                 the bow, port side, and starboard side of the pontoon boat.

- 1        12. A ramp assembly according to claim 11, wherein:
  - 2              the side rails of the ramp have an I-shaped cross-section, thereby forming an
  - 3              inboard pocket and an outboard pocket on either side of the web; and
  - 4              the rollers are received by the outboard pockets of the side rails.
  
- 1        13. A ramp assembly according to claim 11, wherein:
  - 2              the side rails of the ramp have an I-shaped cross-section, thereby forming an
  - 3              inboard pocket and an outboard pocket on either side of the web;
  - 4              the rollers are received by the outboard pockets of the side rails; and
  - 5              the inboard pockets of the side rails receive a plurality of modular walkway
  - 6              members.
  
- 1        14. A ramp assembly according to claim 13, wherein the walkway members are extruded
- 2              tubing having a rectangular cross-section.
  
- 1        15. A ramp assembly according to claim 11 further comprising:
  - 2              an endcap leg disposed at an inboard end of the ramp; and
  - 3              wherein the endcap leg is received by one of the first hanger and the second
  - 4              hanger when the ramp is placed in the extended position.

1        17. A ramp assembly according to claim 11 further comprising:

2                  an endcap leg disposed at an inboard end of the ramp;

3                  wherein the endcap leg is received by one of the first hanger and the second

4                  hanger when the ramp is placed in the extended position; and

5                  wherein the first and second ramp hangers are mounted to the deck such that the

6                  ramp is capable of being positioned in the extended position with the

7                  walkway substantially flush with the deck.

1        18. A ramp assembly according to claim 11 further comprising:

2                  at least one hand railing;

3                  a plurality of support legs pivotally connected to the hand railing;

4                  a plurality of railing holes disposed in the ramp;

5                  wherein in an assembled position, a portion of the support legs are received by the

6                  railing holes and the hand railing is substantially parallel to the walkway of

7                  the ramp; and

8                  wherein in a collapsed position, the support legs are pivoted such to place the

9                  support legs adjacent to the hand railing for storage.

1       19. A ramp assembly according to claim 11 further comprising:  
2              a handle disposed near an outboard end of the ramp; and  
3              a plank shoe pivotally connected to the handle, the plank shoe having an inclined  
4                          surface providing a smooth transition between the walkway surface of the  
5                          ramp and an anchor surface on which the outboard end of the ramp rests  
6                          when the ramp is in an extended position.

1       20. A ramp assembly for a pontoon boat having a deck supported by at least two pontoons,  
2              the ramp assembly comprising:  
3              a ramp having a walkway surface for providing ingress and egress to the pontoon  
4                          boat;  
5              a first deck hanger positioned at the bow of the pontoon boat;  
6              a second deck hanger positioned at one of the port side and the starboard side of  
7                          the pontoon boat;  
8              wherein the ramp is capable of being attached to one of the first deck hanger and  
9                          the second deck hanger; and  
10             wherein the ramp is stowable beneath the deck and between the pontoons of the  
11                  pontoon boat.